

and much more curved, especially in the female; the legs longer and distinctly stouter; with the lower half of all the tibiæ black, the upper part rufous.

This insect is rather local and not frequently found; I met with it once rather plentifully in a red clover field near Birch Wood, the beginning of June.

56. *A. levicolle*, Kirb., Germ., Steph., Schönh.

Mr. S. Stevens has found this species common in three localities near Arundel annually, in the month of August; also near Ryde, Isle of Wight. I met with many specimens on a sand-bank on Windmill Hill, Gravesend, in July: it appears to prefer sandy situations.

[To be continued.]

XLIX.—*Further Notice respecting Cyanocitta superciliosa, a supposed new species of Blue Jay.* By H. E. STRICKLAND, M.A.

IN the last Number of the 'Annals,' p. 260, I proposed to separate the *Blue Jays* of America from *Cyanocorax*, under the generic name of *Cyanocitta*, and I also pointed out a species of the latter group which had been hitherto confounded with the *C. ultramarina* of Mexico. When my paper went to press it happened that I had not then received the March Number of Mr. G. R. Gray's excellent work the 'Genera of Birds,' which contains a monographic summary of the subfamily *Garrulinae*. He there follows preceding authors in retaining the *Blue Jays* and the *Blue Crows* under one genus, *Cyanocorax*, of which he enumerates in the whole twenty-one species. There can however be no doubt that these two groups are deserving of generic separation, as they not only differ in many points of structure and of colour, but also in their geographical distribution, *Cyanocorax* proper inhabiting the warm latitudes of South America, while *Cyanocitta* ranges from Mexico to the colder parts of the North American continent. The latter genus may be thus defined:—

Beak moderate, breadth at the base exceeding the height; upper mandible depressed at the base, slightly compressed towards the point; culmen straight for  $\frac{4}{5}$ ths of its length, then gradually curving down; commissure almost straight till near the apex, then curving downwards; emargination nearly obsolete, gonyes curved upwards, height of each mandible nearly equal. Nostrils covered by recumbent bristly feathers. Frontal feathers not forming a rigid erect crest as in many species of *Cyanocorax*. Total length from 10 to 12 inches. Plumage more or less blue, especially on the wings and tail, which are frequently barred transversely with black. Structure of the feet, wings and tail as in *Cyanocorax*.

With respect to the species of *Cyanocitta* which I supposed to be new, and which I denominated *C. superciliosa*, the synonyms quoted in Mr. Gray's work under *C. ultramarina* have induced me to consult the 'Zoology of Capt. Beechey's Voyage,' and I there find the species in question figured and described by Mr. Vigors under the name of *Garrulus californicus*. The distinctions between it and *C. ultramarina* of Mexico (*Garrulus sordidus*, Swains.) are there correctly pointed out, although all subsequent authors have continued to unite these two species. My proposed specific name of *superciliosa* must therefore give way to Mr. Vigors's prior appellation of *californica*, and the extreme difficulty of obtaining ready access to every zoological work must be my apology for having added one more to the *ten* or *twelve thousand* superfluous specific synonyms which already exist in ornithology alone.

I may add that the "*Pica Sieberi*" of Wagler is certainly a synonym of *C. ultramarina*, not a distinct species as Mr. Gray makes it.

L.—*Note on Mr. H. E. Strickland's Paper on the genus Cardinia (Agassiz).* By CAPT. PORTLOCK, R.E.

Corfu, March 11, 1845.

THE paper of Mr. Strickland\* contains this passage: "Some authors have been disposed to extend the geological range of this genus, by including in it those species from the coal-measures which Sowerby and most other palæontologists have regarded as true *Unionidæ*. Whether Agassiz originally proposed this extension of the genus I am not aware, having never yet been able to meet with his translation of the 'Mineral Conchology,' in which the group is first defined; but in his last work on the subject, the 'Etudes critiques sur les Mollusques fossiles,' he seems to regard *Cardinia* as exclusively confined to the lias and lower oolite."

Having before me the German translation by Agassiz of the 'Mineral Conchology,' I am enabled to remove this doubt of Mr. Strickland, and to render his history of the new genus *Cardinia* complete.

To the generic description of the genus *Unio* (plate 33, Min. Conch.) Sowerby appended this remark: "Several species of this genus are abundant in the iron-stone bed of Derbyshire, called the mussel-band," &c.; and at this passage occurs Agassiz' first note upon the subject, the words of which are: "These bivalves from the stone-coal formation which have been classed by Sowerby in the genus *Unio* are very different from it, as I have satisfied my-

\* Annals, vol. xiv. p. 100.